

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/732,933

Examiner

Wasseem H. Hamdan

Applicant(s)

HUSSAIN, KHALID

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 3/21/2005, and Examiner's amendment filed on 4/20/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 17-24, 26-30 and 32-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 April 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Bradley K. Desandro (Registration No. 34,521) on 04/19/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claim 1:
 - i. Line 5: -- semicolon ";," -- has been inserted after "mark"; and
 - ii. -- varying the dimensions of the customized pictorial cancellation mark; and --, has been inserted after line 5;
- b. Claim 25: claim 25, has been cancelled;
- c. Claim 30:
 - i. Line 6, "and" has been deleted;
 - ii. -- wherein the creation of the customized pictorial cancellation mark further comprises varying a characteristic of the selected pictorial cancellation mark, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of color, size, shape, and image; and --, has been inserted after line 6; and
- b. Claim 31: claim 31, has been cancelled.

Examiner's Statement Of Reason For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 17-24, 26-30, 32-39 are allowed.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined steps for a method for a method of applying a cancellation mark to a mailpiece, including adding customer-supplied information to the partially-designed pictorial cancellation mark so as to create a customized cancellation mark; varying the dimensions of the customized pictorial cancellation mark; and applying said customized pictorial cancellation mark to a mailpiece.

Regarding claim 30, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined steps for a method, including creating, in electronic form, a customized pictorial cancellation mark from the information and the selected pictorial cancellation mark; wherein the creation of the customized pictorial cancellation mark further comprises varying a characteristic of the selected pictorial cancellation mark, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of color, size, shape, and image; and canceling postage indicia on a mailpiece with the customized pictorial cancellation mark.

Regarding claim 36, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined steps for a method, including varying a characteristic of the selected cancellation mark to create, in electronic form, a customized cancellation mark, wherein the characteristic is selected from the group consisting of color, size, shape, and image, and canceling postage indicia on a mailpiece with the customized cancellation mark.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of record does not teach all the combined elements, components and steps as discussed above in the "examiner's statement of reasons for allowance".
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wasseem H. Hamdan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2166. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (first Friday off) 6:30 AM- 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

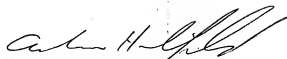
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Wasseem H. Hamdan

April 20, 2005



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